

Recruitment and Medical Host Homes

Pilot Program

The Current Service Issue

Currently, the licensing process for a Host Home (HH) provider does not begin until a specific individual is identified for placement in a specific caregiver's home. That is, following a recommendation for a HH in the individual planning process, a provider is found, a determination is made whether a match exists and then the licensing process begins, which takes three to six months. This sequence slows down the availability of options that may better suit the individual's needs and limits service choice for individuals with disabilities and potential caregivers.

The Pilot

This pilot administered by South Carolina Mentor, in partnership with the South Carolina Department of Disabilities and Special Needs (DDSN), alters the current approach by allowing recruitment and licensing of potential host caregivers to occur before identification and matching of a specific individual needing the service. A provisional license will be issued for those caregivers who qualify and be activated when a match is reached and a placement decision is finalized. This change will improve the opportunity for better matching of individuals' needs and care providers' skills and preferences for individuals they feel they can best support.

The pilot also broadens host home options to include individuals with complex health needs who require nursing services, and establishes new payment levels for those services. For individuals with complex health care needs, three funding levels are established to recruit nurses. The levels are determined by a nursing assessment/evaluation. A fourth level of prior authorization is available for individuals with especially complex needs or in unique circumstances.

The Pilot Monitoring

The pilot homes will be monitored through South Carolina Mentor staff supervision in collaboration with regular meetings with DDSN Executive staff. DDSN District I and District II, with support from DDSN Central Office, will monitor the implementation and ongoing operations of the pilot. Key features of the pilot will be reviewed and the progress and satisfaction of the individuals will be reported.

The Pilot Evaluation

Costs, effectiveness of the pilot to support individuals who have chronic and/or long-term medical care needs with 24-hour nursing supports, efficiency and satisfaction of the individuals will be evaluated through reporting to DDSN Executive Staff through collection of data over time.